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AUTHOR Alexander, Marianne
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ABSTRACT

This report describes a pilot project of college student internships for the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature. The idea for the project was developed by Maryland's 21 women state legislators and was implemented during their 1977 legislative session. Sponsored by the Center for the American Woman and Politics under a grant from the Ms. Foundation, the project sought to give students an opportunity to serve in staff positions and to undertake research on legislative issues affecting women. It also provided the Women's Caucus with staff assistance to strengthen its leadership role within state government and to intensify its efforts to sponsor and support legislation benefitting women throughout the state. There are four major sections to the report. The first section describes the evolution of the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature. Section 2 describes the operation of the internship program. The third section examines the women's legislative issues that the interns researched. The internship program is evaluated in the fourth section. The program was successful primarily in assisting the Caucus in tracking women's legislation. Included in the appendices are a description of the bills introduced as a result of the program, a directory of women members of the Maryland General Assembly, and the evaluation questionnaire. (RM)

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report of a

LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

of the

WOMEN'S CAUCUS

of the

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

by MARIANNE ALEXANDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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1978

PROJECT DIRECTORS
Delegate Pauline Menes, President
Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature
Ruth Mandel, Director
Center for the American Woman & Politics
Marianne Alexander
Supervisor of Interns

EDITOR
Ruth Ann Burns, Program Associate
Center for the American Woman & Politics

Sp 014 214

THE AUTHOR

Marianne Ellis Alexander, a native of Washington, D. C., received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American Studies at the University of Maryland, having written her dissertation on the issues and politics of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, 1967-68. She has taught government and history at the high school and college levels. Her experience in Maryland government has included serving on the research staff of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, the Governor's Commission on Executive Reorganization, and as legislative analyst for the Senate Finance Committee of the Maryland legislature, where she gained her initial experience working with interns. She has worked in several Maryland political campaigns, including Barbara Mikulski's U. S. Senate race in 1974. A former chairperson of the Howard County Women's Political Caucus, more recently Alexander has been a contributing author to two books on women in Maryland history and has served as a consulting scholar with the Maryland Committee for the Humanities, the state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

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MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

sponsored by

RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
Center for the American Woman & Politics
Eagleton Institute of Politics
New Brunswick, New Jersey

CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS (CAWP)
Eagleton Institute of Politics
Rutgers-The State University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

The Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) is a unique research, education, and service center working to increase knowledge about women's participation in public life. As part of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, CAWP programs reflect Eagleton's interest in political institutions, political practitioners, and public policy in the United States.

The Center believes in encouraging the full and effective involvement of women in American public affairs. National in scope, Center programs support the growth and strength of a truly representative government responsive to the needs of all citizens, female and male alike.

CAWP activities include developing educational programs, generating and sponsoring research, convening conferences and symposia, and publishing and disseminating information. By designing and sponsoring a variety of programs, the Center serves a catalytic role in the development of important information about women's participation in government and politics.

Established in 1971 with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant to the Eagleton Institute, the Center for the American Woman and Politics seeks additional funds to support its programs. Neither CAWP nor the Eagleton Institute of Politics is a lobbying organization. All programs undertaken by the Center and the Institute are nonpartisan, and all donations are tax exempt.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) is convinced that in order to continue increasing women's effectiveness and strength in political life, we must exchange ideas, share tools, and communicate with each other about our successes. This report describes one recent success—a pilot project of student internships for the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature.

The idea for the project was developed by Maryland's twenty-one women state legislators, and was implemented during their 1977 legislative session. Sponsored by CAWP under a grant from the N.S. Foundation, the project sought to give students an opportunity to serve in staff positions and to undertake research on legislative issues affecting women. It also provided the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature with staff assistance to strengthen its leadership role within state government and to intensify its efforts to sponsor and support legislation benefitting women throughout the state.

Over the past five years CAWP has monitored significant changes taking place for women in state legislatures. In 1972 a total of 344 women served as state lawmakers across the country. Very few held leadership positions. Few perceived themselves as concerned with women's issues. None were organized in caucuses within their legislatures. Today the number of women state legislators has more than doubled, with 693 women serving in state assemblies and senates during 1978. Yet despite the remarkable increase in numbers, women still constitute only 9.1% of all state legislators. They still hold few leadership positions and they serve in state assemblies far more often than in the powerful state senates.

It has fallen upon the shoulders of this small but growing number of female officials to deal with some of the most important and controversial public policy issues directly affecting women in the United States. The ERA has come to state legislatures for ratification. Abortion, battered spouses, child care, divorce, female offenders, property rights, rape—these and a variety of other issues have become the special concerns of citizens around the country who turn to female legislators for representing their interests and for guidance and leadership.

Many women in office have been willing to serve as the standard bearers for this wide range of new legislative issues. In a number of states outspoken feminist legislators have carried women's rights issues to responsive colleagues, to bill drafters, into committee hearings, and finally to floor debate. In

serving the many constituents who turn to them for advice and who depend on their leadership, women legislators have worked under difficult conditions. With little or no staff assistance and often from relatively powerless positions within their legislative bodies, they have accepted responsibility for championing these new causes over and above performing many other legislative duties. They have acknowledged the need and sought to acquire the tools and resources for extending their effectiveness.

For some time now CAWP has recognized the importance of assisting political women's efforts to serve the public interest. CAWP has also urged the value of designing and supporting educational projects to teach students about the realities of governmental institutions and public policy development. The Center believes that the most feasible and promising projects will be those developed by officeholders themselves, projects geared to actual requirements within a given state and emerging from the women officials' self-identified priorities and assessments of the best ways to serve effectively in their public offices. In Maryland the need was for staff and research assistance to further the work of the Women's Caucus within the legislature.

The Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature is not unique in its cohesiveness, its bi-partisan cooperativeness, or its ability to shape a program to benefit women. Indications from all parts of the country attest that women serving in governmental bodies are beginning to organize around mutual interests and to design projects for securing technical assistance to aid them in the performance of public duties. Furthermore, political practitioners in many states are becoming sensitive to women's issues and to the impact of all public policies on women's lives. To date, however, the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature is the only group of women state legislators to have experimented with a formal student internship program coordinated by a staff supervisor and focused on women's policy issues.

The process launched in Maryland is one which the Women's Caucus is determined to continue for the benefit of legislators, interns, and the constitutents whose needs it served. The Caucus also wishes to communicate its experience to other women serving in public office who might be interested in developing similar programs. In some states women's legislative groups might wish to replicate or to modify the Maryland project to suit their own needs. Individual officials might examine the Maryland experience for ideas about developing internship programs to bring students into direct contact with governmental institutions and women's policy issues.

In issuing this report CAWP's purpose is to share useful information with the growing network of women in public life interested in each other's initiatives and experiences. We hope that readers will find it valuable to learn about how one group of women worked with women for the benefit of women.

Ruth B. Mandel
Director, CAWP

EVOLUTION OF THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

Across the country women in public office are inventing tools to amplify their voices in the policy making processes of government, to represent the concerns of women in the population, and to increase the power of female officials. The following report describes one tool used recently by a group of women state legislators.

In 1977 lawmakers and students both profitted from a Legislative Internship Program designed by the Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature. By training interns to identify, analyze, and track legislation affecting women, the program succeeded in strengthening the operation of the Women's Caucus. Undergraduate students benefitted by gaining an education in government and politics through direct contact with the daily workings of a state legislature and with the development of public policy issues affecting women. Lawmakers tested the opportunities and limitations in utilizing students as legislative staff; and students acquired knowledge of career opportunities in the public sector.

The Women's Caucus of the Maryland State Legislature is an organization composed of the 21 female members of the General Assembly. Three women serve in the 47-member Senate and 18 are in the 141-member House of Delegates. Two are Republicans and 19 are Democrats. Twelve of the 21 members reside in suburban Montgomery and Prince George's counties adjacent to Washington, D. C., while five represent parts of Baltimore, Maryland's major city. The remaining four members are from counties adjacent to or near Baltimore. No woman in the legislature chairs any major standing committee. However, one is Speaker Pro Tem in the House and another chairs the Senate's Executive Nominations Committee.

The Women's Caucus grew out of the Maryland Chapter of the National Order of Women Legislators (OWL), an organization established in the 1950's to foster cooperation between women holding state legislative office and those who, while no longer holding office, had served as state legislators. The organization sought to encourage greater political participation by women in public life. While much of the activity was social in nature, minutes of early state meetings contain discussions of legislation (particularly Maryland's divorce laws) and of ways to encourage women to run for office.* Membership in the Maryland chapter ranged from five to eight members.** The group met only once each year, and concern for legislative matters did not go beyond the discussion stage. The number of women in the legislature increased from eight to 15 after the 1962 election, but the organization did not become more active until 1965 when the membership decided to increase its numbers of meetings to three per year. Discussions recorded in the minutes reflect a growing interest in legislation.

By 1971 the Maryland women had gained distinction within the National Order of Women Legislators because of their 100% membership in the organization as well as recognition for their individual legislative contributions in the fields of education, consumer protection, environmental concerns, and medical expenses.***

1972 A TURNING POINT

The concept of establishing a women's caucus within the legislature was first voiced by the Maryland women in 1972. The black members of the Maryland legislature had organized a caucus in 1971, and events that occurred early in the 1972 session spurred the women to take similar action. At the

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* The information on the background of the Women's Caucus is based in part on the research paper of Robin Fegely (an intern from Johns Hopkins University) on the history of the Women's Caucus.

** There were seven women legislators from 1950-54, five women legislators from 1954-58, and eight from 1958-62, according to Mary Lewis who is compiling a history of women legislators in Maryland for a book on Maryland women edited by Dr. Winifred Helmes.

*** In 1973 a Maryland delegate, Nancy Brown Burkheimer, became president of the national organization.

beginning of the session Delegate Pauline Menes criticized the legislative leadership on the floor of the House of Delegates for failing to appoint women to important standing committees. Thomas Hunter Lowe, then Speaker of the House, reacted by announcing his appointment of Delegate Menes as Chairman of the Ladies' Restroom Committee. When Delegate Menes attempted to attend the weekly leadership meetings held by the Speaker and the President of the Senate in the Governor's office, she was told that her attendance would make the "men feel uncomfortable" and that there was "really no reason for the Chairman of the Ladies' Restroom Committee to attend the meetings anyway."

The incident sparked a lively discussion at the next meeting of the women legislators, focusing on the lack of recognition women legislators had received in the Maryland legislature. No woman in the House chaired any major committee, and although Senator Mary Nock was President Pro Tem and Senator Margaret Schweinhaut chaired the Committee on Executive Nominations, neither woman was included in the Senate's leadership meetings. Senator Nock expressed the belief that she could attend the meetings if she wanted, but had never been invited. She added, however, that her counterpart in the House, Speaker Pro Tem Arthur Dorman, attended regularly. Senator Schweinhaut, according to the press, confessed that she had been invited to a leadership meeting once, only to have the invitation withdrawn soon after it was issued. An apologetic secretary explained that she was new and had made a mistake.

While the focus of the discussion was the lack of recognition given women within the legislature, the legislators also taked about the failure of the Governor to appoint women to numerous boards and commissions, and other important posts throughout Maryland government. Out of the discussion came a motion by Senator Rosalie Abrams that the women legislators "form a Women's Caucus to meet regularly" and "push for the recognition of women for their abilities." Following the motion's approval, a press release was prepared announcing the creation of a "Women's Legislative Caucus." The women also introduced a resolution on February 21, 1972, urging the Governor and leadership of the Assembly "to take positive steps to remedy the present inequities in the recognition of women in higher levels of Maryland government."

Press coverage resulting from these events made public for the first time the objections expressed by the women officials at being excluded from the legislature's power structure as well as the rebuffs from the male leadership when female colleagues called for changes to improve their

status within the legislature. An article appearing in the Washington Post on March 1, 1972 also spoke of a bitterness shared by the women that resulted not only from their lack of leadership positions, but from the snickering and derisive comments made by male colleagues when issues involving women's rights were debated on the floor of the legislature. Furthermore, the female legislators were quoted as objecting to the "protect our womenfolk" attitude demonstrated by male legislators when they excluded their female colleagues from a special legislative viewing of a pornographic film held in Annapolis to demonstrate the public service rendered by the legislatively-created Board of Movie Censors.

Additional publicity was generated when, in mid-session, Speaker Lowe presented to Delegate Menes a toilet seat covered in muskrat from his home territory, Maryland's Eastern Shore. The gift was bestowed during a session of the House of Delegates, according to the Speaker, to recognize Delegate Menes' services as Chairman of the Ladies' Restroom Committee. When Delegate Menes came to the rostrum to accept it, she commented to the audience that Speaker Lowe's gift "occasioned the first time I can recall one of the women members being on the rostrum."

The events of 1972 and the organization of the Women's Caucus did not immediately yield substantial progress for the women of the Maryland General Assembly. By the end of the 1972 session, one woman was appointed to chair a legislative ethics committee and another to fill a vacancy on the Legislative Council, then the interim body of the legislature. These appointments were construed by some as a token response to the Caucus' request for greater recognition for women in the legislature.

1974-1976 BUILDING CLOUT

The most significant milestone in the evolution of the Caucus resulted from the 1974 elections. The number of women legislators in Maryland increased from 13 to 19. Ten of the women had been elected for the first time. At its first meeting, the post-1974 Women's Caucus turned its attention to legislative issues. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was concern about the problem of discrimination against women in Maryland's institutions of higher education. Also under discussion was the need for staff assistance, and Delegate Bert Booth agreed to look into the matter of student interns at local colleges and universities.

Delegate Pauline Menes was elected president of the Women's Caucus at mid-session 1976. One of the first issues

tackled under her leadership was the name and identity of the women legislators' organization. While the decision had been made in 1972 to organize a Women's Caucus, the terms "OWLs" and "caucus" were used interchangeably and caused some confusion. The women had also encountered the problem of ridicule by their male colleagues whenever the term "OWLs" was mentioned on the floor. The legislators decided that during the session and when taking a position on legislation, the women would refer to their organization as the Women's Caucus. They agreed to hold weekly meetings of the Caucus during the session and biweekly meetings in the interim period. Working as an organized interest group, in 1976 the Caucus also began to push for the passage of legislation it supported.

Legislation making important reforms in the state's rape statutes as well as establishing a center for displaced homemakers stood as tangible results of concerted support by women legislators in 1976. Senate President Steny Hoyer, a prime sponsor of the successful rape reforms, described the women legislators' efforts as instrumental in the bills' passage. Delegate Helen Koss, a member of the Women's Caucus, had sponsored the bill creating a pilot center for displaced homemakers in Baltimore City administered by the State's Department of Human Resources.

The Caucus continued to meet following adjournment. Post-session meetings resulted in a Women's Caucus list of legislative priorities. Two important internal decisions were made: (1) to limit the number of priorities; and (2) to avoid those issues that might divide the Caucus. Priorities were agreed upon after consulting with representatives of a variety of women's groups, including the League of Women Voters, the Maryland Women's Political Caucus, the American Association of University Women, and Maryland's Chapter of the National Organization for Women. The legislative priorities agreed upon by the Maryland women lawmakers were: property rights; pension and insurance equity; protection for battered spouses; a strengthening of the state's Human Relations Commission, which handles sex discrimination cases; and continuing reform of rape statutes. The women legislators also set two oversight priorities: ending discrimination against women in higher education; and increasing the numbers of women on Maryland's boards and commissions. These priorities were to form the basis for action by the Caucus through the 1977 session.

Another tactic used by the Women's Caucus in its interim meetings was to reach out and communicate with women's groups around the state to let them know of the Caucus' existence and willingness to address their needs. One of these meetings

included women business leaders, and another was devoted to meeting with women college presidents in Maryland.

DEVELOPING THE PROPOSAL

The Women's Caucus in the fall of 1976 continued to explore ways to secure staff. Caucus President Pauline Menes and member Bert Booth were particularly active in pursuing the possibility of funding an internship program to provide students with the opportunity to work with a female legislative caucus. Dr. Marianne Alexander, who had supervised interns for the Senate Finance Committee, worked with the Caucus to develop a proposal for a women's legislative internship program. Caucus President Menes circulated the proposal to several foundations and inquired into appropriate potential funding sources.

The proposal outlined an internship program as a means of securing much-needed staff support while at the same time offering practical experience in the legislative process to Maryland college students. The program called for four undergraduate students, each working at least 20 hours a week during the 1977 legislative session, and the supervision of these students by a professional who would work directly with them a minimum of two days a week.

The job of the interns, according to the proposal, was:

- to identify, analyze, and track legislation affecting women
- to make the information available to the women legislators and the public
- to respond to requests by women lawmakers for further information on women's issues.

The proposal grew out of the particular need felt by the women legislators for staff assistance in the area of legislation which specifically affects women. The proposal pointed out that, like other individual members of the Maryland General Assembly, the women legislators lacked the research staff to perform these tasks. The proposal pointed to the increasing number of bills dealing with women's rights that were being introduced in the Maryland General Assembly in recent sessions. Some were the results of proposals by the Governor's Commission to Study Implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment established after the adoption by Maryland voters in 1972 of an equal rights amendment to the state

constitution. For several sessions the ERA Commission had been proposing legislation designed to eliminate from Maryland law inequities based on sex. Individual legislators, particularly women members, were also introducing bills affecting women in subject areas ranging from property rights and pensions to battered spouses and rape statute reform. To fill these needs, the women proposed the establishment of the legislative internship program.

In December, 1976 the Ms. Foundation for Women, Inc. issued an initial grant of $2,150.00* to fund the proposed internship program as a pilot project for the 1977 legislative session. Support came through the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) at The Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. CAWP took responsibility for overseeing the project and disseminating its results among the women serving in state legislatures in all fifty states. The program was to be monitored by Ruth Mandel, CAWP's director. The grant also named Pauline Menes, Caucus President, as the director of the Annapolis project, and Marianne Alexander was employed as Supervisor of Interns to direct the day-to-day work of the students. Deanne Pelton, Delegate Menes' Administrative Assistant between sessions, agreed to act as the project's secretary.

* A supplemental grant of $500 was made in March, bringing the total grant to $2,650.00.

Operation of the Program

OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM

The Women's Legislative Internship Program was launched January 12th at the beginning of the 1977 session. Since the program called for the participation of four students from January to April, and since the availability of funding was not established until December, the single largest hurdle in getting started was recruiting students. Two students were recruited about mid-point in the fall semester with the hope that funding would be forthcoming. Fortunately, two other interested students were available as late as the first week in January soon after funding was certain. They agreed to participate despite the lack of advance notice.

Ideally students should learn of the program near the beginning of the fall semester, be interviewed by mid-October and selected by early November so that they can schedule their spring semester's course load around their Annapolis intern commitment.*

The program operated out of the Caucus President's office, the only readily available space. Delegate Menes provided a desk and file drawers and use of her phone. When occasionally she required the exclusive use of her office, the students and/or director of interns used the desks across the hall in one of the county delegation meeting rooms. Secretarial assistance was available approximately five hours a week from Deanne Pelton, who had been assigned to staff a standing committee during the sessions. The need for office supplies was minimal, ranging from typing paper to a bulletin board (which became important to the program as a communications center). The sparse supplies were donated by Caucus officers. A spare typewriter was usually available when needed.

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* The fact that two students were recruited at the last minute was partly responsible for some problems confronting the program in the beginning. One student learned from her advisor after beginning the program that she would be allowed less credit for the experience than she had hoped and could not, therefore, participate the 20 hours per week required by the program. The other late recruit had to leave school because of a family problem, which left the program with only three interns for the first few weeks of its operation. A replacement was found by early February, however, and she more than compensated for her late entry by her willingness to work on the average of four days a week. Her approximately 30 hours per week balanced the 10-12 hours per week that the other student was limited to participating.

At least two of the students were recruited early enough to attend one of the orientation sessions organized by the General Assembly's Intern Coordinator. While the sessions gave students a general picture of how the legislature functioned and the range of support services available, further orientation was needed for the women's legislative intern program. The Intern Supervisor for the Caucus spent initial meetings acquainting the students with:

- the physical location of the bill room where copies of proposed legislation are available
- other distribution points where weekly synopses of bills and schedules of hearings are available
- the locations of bill status cards for staff use
- and legislative reference library facilities and committee rooms.

TRACKING LEGISLATION

Students spent the first week attending committee hearings and taking notes on bills which particularly affected women. This responsibility continued throughout the session and was the single most time-consuming task assigned to the students. The Supervisor of Interns, with the assistance of the students, reviewed the weekly bill synopses to identify the issues affecting women. The weekly schedule of committee hearings was combed for the dates and locations of hearings on these bills, and this information was posted on the bulletin board in Delegate Menes' office. When the students arrived in the morning they checked the schedule and decided as a group how to cover hearings. Schedules were staggered, with two students present on most days, and at least one present each weekday when the legislature was in session. The interns' supervisor, who was present two and one-half days per week, also covered hearings when necessary. The women legislators requested that the hearing notes contain as much background information as possible including the names of witnesses and the key content of their testimony.

The students also were requested to identify support and opposition to the bills by committee members. These notes and a copy of each bill were filed for later references. As the session progressed, the students began attempting bill analysis as well.

The Supervisor of Interns also prepared a brief analysis

of each bill with its committee assignment. This list of bill summaries was updated periodically, reproduced, and made available to legislators as well as to women's groups. For example, individual members of the United Democratic Women's Clubs requested the first list of summaries. They had learned of its availability from Caucus President Pauline Menes, who had served as guest speaker at the Clubs' state-wide Annapolis meeting. The Prince George's County Women's Political Caucus also requested bill summaries and related information. The interns gained valuable assistance in the preparation of the summaries from the staff of the Governor's Commission to Implement Equal Rights Amendment, which had been following many women's legislative issues in previous sessions.

A tracking chart of the bills being followed was devised. The student interns kept this chart up-to-date so that the status of a bill could be checked instantly. During the session the students tracked approximately 120 bills. At the end of the session the Supervisor of Interns, with student assistance, issued a legislative wrap-up which contained an analysis of the bills that passed and failed. These summaries were used by the women legislators in making speeches after the session. They were also made available to the State Commission for its post-session newsletter to women around the state, and to participants in the Maryland IWY Conference in June, 1977. The summaries were particularly useful in answering media inquiries.

DEVELOPING A CONSENSUS TOOL

Well in advance of the session, the Women's Caucus had determined its legislative priorities, and had decided to take positions only on those bills which fell into the designated areas. However, the Caucus had not worked out a mechanism for ascertaining consensus among members regarding individual bills, nor was there a plan for communicating Caucus positions to other legislators. These issues were discussed at one of the first weekly session meetings. Delegate Bert Booth, charged with the responsibility of proposing a consensus mechanism, drafted a proposal stipulating that a two-thirds vote of the 21-member Caucus be required before the Caucus could take a stand either for or against a bill which fell within one of the priority areas. The proposal gained Caucus approval and stated that the Caucus could decide to:

- take no position

- make a general statement in writing directed to the appropriate committee hearing the bill
- send a member of the Caucus to the hearing to make a verbal statement in addition to the written statement submitted, or
- engage in an all-out lobbying effort.

A special form was designed listing the Caucus members with a space beside each name to indicate a "for" or "against" position or written comments. The checklist was used to poll each Caucus member on her position on a specific bill. This checklist system was devised when conflicting schedules and commitments during the session made it virtually impossible to get the necessary two-thirds members together at a meeting. An added advantage of the checklist was that it provided a written record of the Caucus' position on a specific bill for the files.

The student interns circulated the checklist among Caucus members. If a particular bill received the required two-thirds vote for the Caucus to go on record as supporting a bill, a statement of support was delivered by the intern to the committee and distributed to committee members at the time of the bill's hearing.* If the Caucus decided that a personal appearance by a member was necessary, an intern notified the designated member to represent the Caucus at the exact hearing time and place, and assisted in distributing the statement.

INTERNS TACKLE A VARIETY OF TASKS

Developing the bill analyses, attending and reporting on hearings, maintaining the tracking chart, and facilitating communications about the Caucus' positions on specific issues comprised the bulk of the interns' work. In addition, the students provided valuable assistance in a variety of other ways including providing assistance to individual members on specific women's issues. For example, one legislator was asked to participate in a panel on tax reform issues of the current legislative session. Her assignment was to discuss proposed tax changes that would particularly affect women. One of the interns, at the legislator's request, reviewed the proposed legislation, supplied her with copies of bills, and wrote a brief description of their contents and current status in the legislature (including future hearing dates).

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* See Appendix A for list of Caucus positions on bills.

Interns were also assigned the task of attending and reporting on special meetings related to women's issues. Students covered a workshop of women's property rights, a meeting of the Governor's Commission on Domestic Law, the Governor's Commission to Implement the ERA, and a special workshop on the topic of "Battered Women." One of the students, as well as the interns' supervisor, attended meetings of the State's Commission for Women.

The internship program expanded the Caucus' resources beyond the scope of what it could accomplish during the hectic, pressured legislative session. Some examples: locating and requesting the restoration by the legislature of a portrait of Maryland's first woman legislator, Mary Risteau; helping to organize a reception given by women lawmakers for women staff members of the legislature; and drafting a resolution expressing sympathy to the family of Katherine Edgar Byron (Maryland's first woman in Congress) on her death.

Interns also assisted in responding to requests for information from legislators in other states. For example, women legislators in Virginia requested copies of legislation sponsored successfully by the Maryland Women's Caucus in its priority areas. Students helped circulate announcements of the student intern program to the press and to male members of the legislature. An intern was assigned the job of compiling a list of the publications and accomplishments of the Maryland Commission for Women in the event the budgetary requests of the Commission were threatened in the legislature's budget committees. A student intern who had served on a Title IX committee at her college and was familiar with the required self-evaluation reports was assigned the job of assessing the University of Maryland's report, which had been requested by one of the women Senators. The students received these miscellaneous work assignments from the intern supervisor, who learned of the jobs that needed doing from the weekly meetings of the Caucus and from brief conferences with Caucus President Menes several times a week.

Contact with the interns' faculty advisors varied with the colleges involved. One student's advisor made no effort to contact the Annapolis supervisor of interns or the women legislators, but treated the internship experience as the student's independent study project, with a research paper due at the semester's end. The student's research paper dealt with the history of the Maryland Women's Caucus. She received three credits for the work experience and paper. Two students were required by their instructor to keep a daily log of their activities and write a paper at the end of the semester about their internship experiences. They attended

a required seminar on campus that met bi-weekly with their faculty sponsor. He requested that the interns' supervisor for the Caucus complete an evaluation of the students' work at the semester's end. The students received six credits. The fourth student, who also received six credits, met periodically with her sponsor, who requested a written evaluation of the student's work by the Annapolis supervisor of interns.

The students were assigned to work with the women legislators through the General Assembly's intern coordinator so that they would qualify for a $100 stipend from the legislative leadership's intern fund, available to students receiving credit from educational institutions within the state. The members of the Women's Caucus each made a contribution equal to this amount for the one out-of-state student. Each student also received $200 from the foundation grant under which the Women's Legislative Internships Program was funded. The $300 received by the students was to cover expenses. The students estimated that their travel and meal expenses for the time in Annapolis slightly exceeded this amount. Their $300 stipend was the same as that received by approximately 130 student interns working at the General Assembly during the 1977 session.

More than half of the grant was allocated for the salary of a professional employed part-time to supervise the interns. The intern supervisor selected by the Caucus had worked with a standing committee of the General Assembly for two previous sessions and had taught at the college level, as well as worked with interns in the legislature. The Caucus' decision to hire a professional whose primary responsibility was the supervision and direction of interns was considered an integral part of the program. Many Caucus members as individual legislators had utilized interns in previous sessions and discovered that they did not have the necessary time to provide sufficient guidance. Unless the individual legislator or staff member is able to provide direction, there is none available. Schools which send their students to Annapolis do not provide on-site supervision. While the Maryland legislature's general intern program has vastly improved in recent sessions with the designation of an intern coordinator, the sponsorship of an orientation program and production of an intern handbook, no supervision or guidance is provided on an ongoing basis. The intern supervisor employed by the Women's Caucus was present in Annapolis a minimum of two and one-half days a week, she scheduled those days so that she could meet with each intern at least once a week. In addition, daily phone contact was maintained with the interns.

Women's Legislative Issues of 1977

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF 1977

While the interns tracked all proposed 1977 legislation which would affect women in particular (approximately 120 bills), the Women's Caucus took positions only on those bills that fell into the established legislative priority areas of property rights, protection of battered spouses, pension and insurance equity, strengthening the state's Human Relations Commission and continued reform of statutes dealing with rape and related sexual offenses. (See the appendix for list of bills tracked that did not fall into the Caucus priorities.)

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Three bills, introduced by Delegate Helen Koss, attempted to strengthen the property rights of married women under Maryland's domestic law. Identical to the three Koss bills introduced in the 1976 session, which met a hasty death at the hands of the House Judiciary Committee, the 1977 property rights bills were co-sponsored by nearly all the women members of the House. The 1977 bills (HB 1038, 1039, 1040) would have given the Maryland courts sitting in a divorce proceeding the authority to make an equitable division of the marital property. Presently Maryland courts are bound by law to award marital property to the spouse who holds title to the property. HB 1038 would have given the court authority to divide marital property without regard to misconduct based on several factors, among them the economic contribution of each spouse (including the wife's economic contribution as homemaker) and the economic need of each spouse. HB 1039 dealt specifically with the family home and gave the court the authority to award the right to live in the house to the spouse with children and to consider economic contribution as well as need in making the decision. This bill dealt with marital personal property only and gave the court the authority to divide property considering a variety of factors including economic contribution, need, and value of property.

The bills received favorable testimony by women legislators and a variety of women's groups including the League of Women Voters, the Maryland Chapter of N.O.W., as well as individual women who testified as to the economic hardship for themselves and their children under existing Maryland law. However, the Judiciary Committee failed to give them a favorable report, and the bills died.

A governor's Commission on Domestic Law is currently studying the property rights issue. The bills' sponsor, Helen Koss, along with other women legislators are watching the

work of the Commission closely to see what kind of legislation is drafted in the area of property rights. Should the Commission fail to draft strong legislation, Delegate Koss' three bills will assume high priority among women legislators for the 1978 session.

PROTECTION OF BATTERED SPOUSES

Three bills fell into the battered spouses priority area and received Caucus backing. Two had been unsuccessfully introduced the previous session by their sponsor Delegate Pauline Menes. Menes' House Joint Resolution 32 proposed that county and city police departments as well as the State Police keep a record of cases of spousal battering and report their findings to the 1978 General Assembly. The resolution cleared the House Judiciary Committee but was amended in the Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee to assign sole responsibility for collecting the data from local police departments to the State Police, and moved the deadline for reporting ahead to 1979. The resolution passed as amended. HB 124, sponsored by Delegate Menes, dealt with battered spouses and again met defeat in 1977 in the House Judiciary Committee. The bill would have repealed the doctrine of intraspousal tort immunity that presently prevents married persons under Maryland law from suing their spouses for an assault or battery.

Introduced for the first time in 1977 was a bill by Senator Rosalie Abrams calling for the establishment of regional shelter homes for battered spouses and their children. Following a hearing on the bill by the Senate Finance Committee, during which one of the committee's conservative members speculated that "maybe women were better off as a chattel," an article in the Washington Star appeared with pictures, names and quotes of the unsympathetic members of the committee. Within a few days following the newspaper publicity, the bill was amended to provide funding for one model regional home for family victims of spouse abuse who seek safe shelter. The news article is generally given credit for the bill's survival, since the dominant theme during the 1977 session was the problem of soaring government costs. Existing programs were threatened by budget cuts and the creation of new programs was generally considered politically impossible. The bill passed both houses and was signed into law.

PENSION EQUITY

Two bills fell into the Caucus' priority area of pension equity. One bill, HB 1396 by Lucille Maurer (D. Montgomery

Co.) proposed that a divorced woman be given a share of the former spouse's death benefit in the state's retirement plan in proportion to the number of years married. The House Committee hearing the bill referred it to the special joint study committee on pensions. The other bill (SB 518) introduced unsuccessfully by Senator Rosalie Abrams in previous sessions, would have offered full options to all beneficiaries under the state's pension plan. The bill was designed to give beneficiaries who are not spouses the choice of a monthly allowance or the lump sum. Under present law only spouses can opt for the monthly allowance, while beneficiaries other than spouses are limited to the lump sum. The Abrams bill met the same fate as the Maurer bill—referred to the Pension Study Committee.

STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Several bills were introduced to deal with the structure and method of appointing the Human Relations Commission. The major bill among these—the result of a subcommittee's efforts between sessions—was strongly endorsed by the Women's Caucus. It reduced the size of the Commission from 12 to nine and removed the appointment of the chairman from the Governor, giving it to the Commission. In addition the bill provided for hearing examiners to hear cases, thereby speeding up the hearing process to handle the serious backlog waiting to be heard by commissioners. The bill also permitted monetary relief to be awarded to victims of employment discrimination. The bill sponsored by the Appropriations Committee Chairman also had the solid backing of the Black Caucus and the Commission itself, which insured passage without weakening amendments.

Another bill, sponsored by Caucus member Verda Welcome and endorsed by the women legislators, addressed the problem of discrimination in state employment. While under the existing law the Governor was given final authority in employment discrimination complaints filed against the state, the proposed bill transferred this final authority to the Human Relations Commission. Several weakening amendments were added by the House, and women's groups have generally concluded that the amendments significantly diminished the strength of the bill.

RAPE AND RELATED SEXUAL OFFENSES

The special legislative Committee on Rape and Related Offenses continued its work of the previous session in which significant reforms were proposed and enacted with the strong backing of the Women's Caucus. The Caucus endorsed several of

the committee's proposals in the 1977 session. One which failed to pass would have prohibited a judge in a rape trial from instructing the jury that "rape is a charge easily made but difficult to disprove." Another measure which failed would have permitted medical reports and hospital records as admissable evidence in rape cases in lieu of the attending physician's presence. A bill backed by the Caucus that did pass authorized the Police Training Commission to require in its training program the study of laws pertaining to rape and related sexual offenses and the treatment of victims of these offenses.

OTHER ISSUES

Several issues important to women arose on which the Caucus took positions either as a group or as individuals, although they did not fall directly within one priority area. One dealt with giving Maryland courts sitting in divorce proceedings the power to issue an injunction to keep a potentially dangerous party from entering the home. Several bills were introduced with the purpose of restoring this injunctive power, removed by the Intermediate Court of Appeals with the Kapneck Decision in 1976. The Caucus took a general position of support for the proposed legislation, and one of the bills acceptable to the women legislators was signed into law.

Individual members of the Caucus took an active part in support of two bills sponsored by Senator Rosalie Abrams attempting to counteract the recent Supreme Court ruling that employers who exclude pregnancy benefits from disability insurance programs are not guilty of sex discrimination. Both bills passed the legislature and were signed into law despite a consideration by the Governor to veto them following vigorous protest by the insurance industry. One bill (SB 774) requires employers to provide temporary disability insurance or sick leave benefits for a pregnancy-related disability in the same manner as for other disabilities. Another bill (SB 775) amends the state 's insurance code to require insurers providing individual or group policies to provide benefits for pregnancy-related disabilities.

The Caucus also backed a bill by Delegate Judith Toth to add "sex" to the existing clause in state law that prohibits the awarding of state contracts to contractors who discriminate based on "race, creed, color or national origin." The bill passed.

For a brief summary of the bills that did not fall into Caucus priority areas but were followed by the interns, see Appendix A of this report.

Evaluation of the Program

EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM

WOMEN LEGISLATORS EVALUATION

Responses to the program were elicited from women legislators during summer 1977. All thirteen legislators who completed a mailed questionnaire were very positive about the intern program and stated that they favored its continuation for 1978. One stressed the need for intern assistance between sessions, when there is adequate time to do research.

When asked if the students were helpful or a nuisance, all answered helpful. The only delegate who suffered any inconvenience shared an office suite with Delegate Menes and occasionally found her phones tied up by an intern making a call in connection with her assignments.

All agreed that the availability of student interns made a difference in the functioning of the Caucus. Members' written comments included: "The interns enabled us to act in a timely fashion"; "Information was more readily available"; "Their work helped me to be better informed." Others stated in their evaluations that "without staff assistance (we) could not possibly have gone through the mechanics of agreement on positions"; "The students kept us up-to-date on progress of legislation"; "They were the arms and legs by which we were able to carry out our program."

All but one agreed that a supervisor was necessary to direct the interns' work. Most who answered affirmatively stated that the presence of a supervisor was absolutely necessary because legislators simply do not have the time to guide and direct students' work. One member commented that the students seemed highly motivated and did not need constant supervision, but that a supervisor was important for communication and coordination.

Responses among Caucus members varied on the question of how to improve utilization of interns if the program is continued. The most consistently expressed recommendation was that students be recruited who could devote five days a week to the program. Increased opportunities for the women legislators to talk personally to the interns was another recommendation, along with the observation that the contact with the students was too superficial. Some recommended that more preparation time be allowed at the beginning of the session to give students time to meet with Caucus members. Other recommendations included dividing the Caucus into subcommittees on priority areas, with a student assigned to each subcommittee as an aide, and publishing a newsletter to communicate with women's groups around the

state. There were also recommendations that there be more appropriate space allocation for the program as well as improved access to a phone.

STUDENTS EVALUATION

According to the evaluation by the students, each found the experience extremely valuable. This was the first field experience in government for all of the students, as well as the first opportunity to work with women in elective office. While the students who were present 20 hours per week expressed satisfaction with the number of hours they worked in Annapolis, the student who worked an average of four days per week voiced the strong conviction that she would have gained far less from the experience had she been limited to working two days a week. None of the students expressed dissatisfaction with the physical space from which the program operated, and all expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work in Delegate Menes' office, thereby getting to know at least one Caucus member fairly well.

When asked about immediate effects of the internship, one student admitted that before this exposure to women's issues, she had believed that women had achieved far greater equality through the women's movement. Particularly shocking to the students was the legal status of married women in Maryland in the area of property rights. The student who was not majoring in political science decided as a result of the internship that she would take more courses in the subject because her work with the women legislators had increased her interest in politics. One student decided to write her senior thesis on the evolution and work of the Women's Caucus. One of the graduating seniors expressed the desire to continue working in the field of women's issues.

All of the students commended the intern program as a hands on opportunity to observe the legislative process. Two of the students expressed the conviction that the internships fostered understandings and insights they could never have acquired in a traditional classroom setting. One student had observed during the session that the legislature "can be a very frustrating place where important bills are killed in committee." Another concluded after the session's experience that state government is as important to study as the federal government, but that before the internship she had never been exposed to Maryland legislative issues. Another student expressed dismay at the apathy and indifference exhibited by some legislators during the committee hearings. As for the role of the women legislators in Annapolis, one student observed

that "women make better legislators than men" because they were "less power hungry and more humble than male legislators" and that they displayed "genuine concern for the welfare of all Maryland citizens." This student concluded that "the women take their work seriously."

SUPERVISOR OF INTERNS EVALUATION

The students participating in the program did an outstanding job. The Caucus was very fortunate to have located on short notice four bright, motivated, and enthusiastic students. They worked well together and succeeded in making the intern program viable and worthwhile.

The two days per week specified in the proposal was an unrealistic time allotment for the work required of the Supervisor of Interns. In practice the supervisor worked Tuesdays and Thursdays in Annapolis in addition to attendance at Caucus meetings late Wednesday afternoons. The mornings of the three days not in Annapolis the supervisor spent either in communicating with the interns, reviewing legislation, or performing miscellaneous administrative duties relating to the program and the Caucus. During peak work periods during the session, weekend hours were also devoted to updating bill summaries. The additional work time was necessary, not because the students needed more supervision or failed to do their job, but because the operation of the program required more working hours than projected in the proposal. Also, daily contact with the interns either by phone or in person was important for communication of information and coordination of assignments.

One task that significantly reduced the amount of time students had to devote to bill summaries or related work was attendance at hearings. During some weeks in mid-session it was not unusual to have three or four hearings to cover in one day.

In addition to the role of directing and supervising the work of the students, the intern supervisor also played the role of teacher—answering students' questions, providing background information, and suggesting appropriate sources of information. This was particularly important in the beginning when the legislative issues, working details of the legislative process, and the legislative personnel were new subject matter for the students. This role diminished as the students understood the day-to-day workings of the legislature and as the work pace of the session accelerated.

Working with the women legislators during the session provided an opportunity to assess staff needs of the Caucus. The

necessary functions identified comprise four categories:

- research — that is, preparing background material to be used as a basis for proposed legislation, testimony by the Caucus, or fact sheets to inform the public or other legislators about given issues

- legislative tracking — includes identifying legislation that particularly impacts on women, analyzing these bills, following them through committee hearings and floor votes, and making information on bill status available to the public

- lobbying — includes preparing and presenting Caucus testimony, individual contacts with legislators, and facilitating the progress of a bill by staff contacts

- caucus administration — includes facilitating the approval and circulation of testimony, organizing meetings and preparing agendas, drafting correspondence and filing, and organizing special meetings or events.

With regard to these four categories, the experience of the Maryland internship program in 1977 demonstrated that the Caucus' need to track Maryland legislation affecting women can be met appropriately and successfully by student interns. Realistically, significant research cannot be accomplished during the session by students. However, if the program were established on a year-round basis, students working between sessions could be useful in a research capacity. The lobbying function cannot be performed by student interns.* The Caucus also has need for administrative and secretarial assistance in addition to the intern program during the session. Specifically, the Caucus requires staff assistance for planning and arranging regular meetings and special events, keeping records of meetings, notifying members of meetings, drafting correspondence, and filing.

The internship program could function more smoothly in future sessions with the addition of an administrative assistant with typing skills working at least part-time who could perform the miscellaneous administrative and secretarial functions required by the Caucus, as well as act as a focal point for the program's communications.

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*It should be noted that the terms of the grant under which the program was funded in 1977 specifically precluded the program's personnel from engaging in lobbying.

In summary, the internship program was successful primarily in assisting the Caucus in tracking women's legislation. This was the main purpose of the program in the proposal. Realistically an internship program cannot be expected, during one session, to completely fulfill the Caucus' research needs or to perform administrative or lobbying functions for the Caucus.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CAUCUS

The Women's Caucus is seeking funding for its internship program on a year-round basis. In the meantime, the Caucus continued the program for the summer of 1977 with the cooperation of Goucher College, a four-year private women's college in the Baltimore area. A student enrolled in Goucher's summer school program received credit for an independent study project in cooperation with the Women's Caucus. Under the supervision of the Caucus's Supervisor of Interns, she collected and organized information to aid the Caucus in pursuing its legislative priorities for 1978.

Under discussion is the possibility of sharing a full-time intern with Maryland's Commission for Women. This intern would work in Washington at the Congressional Clearing House on Women's Rights to keep the Commission for Women and the Women's Caucus up-to-date on federal legislation affecting Maryland women. The Caucus is also considering cooperation with the Commission for Women through assigning an intern the job of legislative liaison with the Commission, whose staff is based in Baltimore.

The Women's Caucus of the Maryland Legislature is also seeking funds for a regional conference of women legislators (N. Y., N. J., Del., Md., Pa., and Va.) to exchange information on legislative solutions to problems shared by women in many states.

In line with Caucus members' recommendation that the internship program recruit students who could work full-time with the Caucus, an intern will be requested for 1978 through a state college which grants fifteen credits to students working in the legislature 40 hours per week during the 90-day session. Present requirements at other Maryland colleges and universities, however, preclude students receiving more than six credits, thereby limiting their participation to 20 hours per week. The question of permitting as many as fifteen credits for full-time undergraduate internships is under consideration by the governing board of Maryland's colleges and universities.

With the establishment of the intern program in 1977 the

Caucus gained the capacity to keep abreast of proposed legislation that would particularly affect women. For the first time the women legislators as an organization had the staff support to analyze the content of these bills and to track them during a session. The intern assistance further enabled the Caucus to poll its membership during the session on specific bills and to communicate that position to fellow legislators. The intern program aided the Caucus in its efforts to communicate with women's groups throughout the state during the session by responding to requests for information on bills from these groups. When students made frequent contacts with the staff of the ERA Commission and the Commission for Women, they were performing an important liaison function for the Caucus with these state governmental bodies concerned with women's rights.

The initial operation of the intern program in 1977 provided the women legislators of Maryland with an opportunity to test the strengths and limitations of utilizing students as staff. Although the interns could not fulfill all the staff needs of the Caucus, the women legislators concluded that the intern program provided staff support in several significant areas and that it has application for other women in elective office searching for ways to increase their effectiveness and amplify their voices in the policy making processes of government.

APPENDIX A
LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP ON WOMEN'S ISSUES - 1977 SESSION

I. Bills in Caucus Priority Areas

PROPERTY RIGHTS

CAUCUS FAVORED	HB 1038 HB 1039 HB 1040	KOSS, ET AL	UNFAV REPORT BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

These bills would have given the courts in a divorce the authority to divide marital property based on several factors including the economic contribution and economic circumstance of each spouse. The contribution of the wife as homemaker was to be taken into account. Under present law Maryland courts can only award property to the spouse holding title to the property.

BATTERED SPOUSES

CAUCUS FAVORED	HJR 32	MENES	PASSED

The bill as originally proposed would have requested the county and city police departments, and the Maryland State Police to keep records of cases of spousal and aggravated assaults and their dispositions and to report their findings to the 1978 General Assembly. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee amended the bill by eliminating reference to the county and city police and charging the State Police with the responsibility of keeping these records. The reporting deadline was changed to January 1, 1979.

CAUCUS FAVORED	HB 124	MENES	UNFAV REPORT BY HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Bill would have repealed the doctrine of intraspousal tort immunity to permit a married person to sue a spouse in tort for an assault or battery.

CAUCUS FAVORED	SB 776	ABRAMS	PASSED AS AMENDED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bill requires the Secretary of Human Resources to establish and maintain a regional model shelter home for battered spouses and their children. Fifty percent of the cost will be paid by the state. The other half to be paid from Federal or Local government sources or private funds.

PENSION EQUITY

CAUCUS FAVORED HB 1396 MAURER REFERRED TO PENSION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill proposed that divorced women be given a share of their former spouse's death benefit in proportion to the number of years married.

CAUCUS FAVORED SB 518 ABRAMS REFERRED TO PENSION STUDY COMMITTEE

This bill which has been introduced in three previous sessions would have offered to any beneficiary the full options now available in the state's pension plan to surviving spouses. (Beneficiaries who are not spouses can under present law receive the lump sum but not the monthly allowance which spouses can opt for.)

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CAUCUS FAVORED HB 458 CHAIRMAN, PASSED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

This bill reduces the size of the Human Relations Commission from 12 to 9, eliminates the requirements for geographic representation, and removes the appointment of the chairman from the Governor and gives it to the Commission. It also eliminates compensation for the chairman (except expenses) and requires the Governor to appoint the executive director from a list submitted by the commission. The executive director can be removed by a 2/3 vote of the commission. Hearing examiners are provided for as well as legal assistance to the commission. The commission will serve as an appeals board for decisions of the hearing examiner. Monetary relief may be awarded to persons found to be discriminated against in employment.

CAUCUS FAVORED SB 347 WELCOME PASSED

Bill removes the final authority to resolve discrimination complaints against state officials and agencies from the Governor and assigns authority to the Human Relations Commission.

RAPE AND RELATED SEXUAL OFFENSES

CAUCUS FAVORED	HB 741	SHEEHAN AND HARCHENHORN	FAILED IN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
	SB 426	HOYER	

Bills would have prohibited the instructions by a judge to a jury in rape trials that the charge of rape is easily made but difficult to disprove.

NO POSITION	HB 1445	SHEEHAN	BOTH PASSED
	SB 699	HOYER	

Bills extend the exclusion of evidence relating to a victim's reputation of chastity to all sexual offenses; presently limited to rape.

CAUCUS FAVORED	HB 1446	SHEEHAN	SENATE BILL PASSED
	SB 700	HOYER	

This bill authorizes the Police Training Commission to require training and study of laws regarding rape and sexual offenses and to include contact with and treatment of victims of these crimes.

CAUCUS FAVORED	HB 1447	SHEEHAN	FAILED IN HOUSE
	SB 698	HOYER	JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Bills would have permitted medical reports and hospital records as admissable evidence in rape without necessitating the presence of a doctor.

NO POSITION	HB 1984	SHEEHAN	BOTH PASSED
	SB 938	HOYER	

Bills will relieve victims of rape and sexual offenses from paying the cost of examination and tests that are needed to collect evidence.

CAUCUS FAVORED	SB 697	HOYER	FAILED IN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Bill would have eliminated the separate classification of rape in the law.

NO POSITION	SB 658	HOYER	PASSED

Bill established a general indictment for all rape and sexual offense cases.

RAPE AND RELATED SEXUAL OFFENSES (CONT'D)

NO POSITION SB 934 HOYER PASSED

Bill would make intercourse with a person under 14 years old a second degree rape rather than first degree, as in present law.

II. Other Bills Supported by the Caucus

KAPNECK

GENERAL SUPPORT BY CAUCUS RATHER THAN SPECIFIC SUPPORT GIVEN ONE BILL	SB 166	ABRAMS	FAILED IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
	HB 1506	MENES	UNFAV REPORT BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
	HB 1540	OWENS	PASSED
	SB 874	MILLER	PASSED

All four bills were a legislative response to the Kapneck Decision (1976) which asserted that courts sitting in divorce proceedings did not have the authority to issue an injunction to prevent a party who might cause physical harm from entering the home. The bills that passed give divorce courts the clear authority to issue an injunction to protect family members from physical harm or harassment.

PREGNANCY DISABILITY

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT BY CAUCUS MEMBERS	SB 774	ABRAMS	PASSED
	SB 775	ABRAMS	PASSED

Both bills attempt to counteract the recent Supreme Court ruling that employers who exclude pregnancy benefits from disability insurance programs are not guilty of sex discrimination. SB 774 requires employers to provide temporary disability insurance or sick leave benefits for a pregnancy-related disability in the same manner and under the same conditions as for any other disability. SB 775 amends the Insurance Code (Art. 48A) to require insurors who provide either individual or group policies to provide benefits for pregnancy-related disabilities.

DISCRIMINATION IN STATE CONTRACTS

CAUCUS FAVORED HB 1991 TOTH PASSED

This bill adds "sex" to the existing clause in state law which lists "race, creed, color or national origin," and prohibits the awarding of state contracts to contractors who discriminate. "Sex" would also be added to this clause which contractors are required to include in certain sub-contracts and to post in conspicuous places for applicants and employees to see.

Miscellaneous Bills Affecting Women on which the Caucus did not take a position and which did not fall into a caucus priority area.

A. The following bills passed

HB 89	Dabrowski	Bill requires hospitals to offer all female in-patients over 18 years a uterine cytological exam for cancer.
HB 267	Young	Bill requires that group health insurors permit a dependent spouse covered under a group plan to automatically convert the policy to an individual one in the event of the death or divorce of the spouse who is the plan member.
HB 539	Maurer	Bill gives the Attorney General the authority to subpoena the membership records of country clubs for the purpose of determining if a club practices discrimination. Loss of tax exemption could result if discrimination exists.
HB 647	Koss & Brown	Bill amends the Equal Credit Opportunity act to prohibit a person who extends credit from refusing to consider both a husband and a wife's income when both spouses apply for a joint account.
HB 1010	Toth and Hagner	Bill extends the property tax exemption for surviving spouses of qualified disabled veterans to subsequently acquired property as long as surviving spouse remains unmarried and continues to own the property and live there.
HB 1046	Chairman, Tax Reform Study Committee	Bill provides for a subtraction modification to the federal adjusted gross income of Maryland taxpayers for "household and child care expenses."

HB 1065	Harchenhorn	This bill requires that abortions performed after 20 weeks be performed in a hospital where reasonable steps must be taken to keep the fetus alive; however, life-saving procedures are not required if the fetus is diagnosed as having "a significant disease or malformation."
HB 1148	Long	This bill authorizes the local government in Wicomico County to establish a Commission for Women.
HB 1297	Green et al	Bill requires that doctors notify parents of a minor female before performing an abortion. Amendments to the bill permit considerable discretion by the physician regarding notification.
HB 1680	Horne & Sheehan	Bill allows a judge to order the defendant in a criminal action to make restitution to the victim of the crime for medical expenses and loss of earnings as a result of the crime.
HJR 17	Goldwater	Resolution requests the Secretary of Personnel for the State to conduct a pilot study to determine the feasibility of implementing a flexitime program for state employees (Flexitime permits individual employees some flexibility in setting their working hours).
SB 445	Hoyer	Substantially the same as HB 539.
SB 824	Boyer	This bill repeals the obsolete and sexually discriminatory provisions regarding the desertion of a wife by a husband. According to the ERA Commission, this will not affect existing civil support obligations nor divorce grounds based on desertion.

B. The following bills failed

HB 5 Bienen Unfavorable Report	Bill would have exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from sales tax.
HB 170 Riley Passed House; Killed in Jud. Proc.	Bills would have eliminated "criminal conversation" as a cause of action. Under present law a married person can sue the paramour of spouse for "criminal conversation."
HB 412 Owens Passed House; Killed in Jud. Proc.	Bill would have required a judge, when granting a divorce decree, to permit the restoration of an individual's last name prior to the marriage.
HB 611 Toth Held by committee pending action by phone company	Bill would have required the phone company to list the first and last names of both husband and wife in the phone directory at no extra cost to customers. Note: the State's Public service Commission approved by April 1 a phone company plan that would permit a dual listing of one last name and two first names at no extra cost.
HB 1185 Goldwater Unfavorable Report; Econ. Mat.	Bill would have required insurors to offer policy holder benefits to pay for services rendered by nurse practitioners and nurse midwives.
HJR 10 Sheehan & Komenda Unfavorable Report	Bill would have required the State's Dept. of Personnel to provide space on applications for volunteer experience.
SJR 3 Welcome Failed in Con. & Pub. Law	Resolution would have requested the Governor to appoint women to vacancies on boards and commissions until there is an "equitable" balance of men and women members.

SB 69 Steinberg Failed in House Judiciary	Bill would have conferred personal jurisdiction over a non-resident defendant on a court sitting to hear cases on child or spousal support or counsel fee issues. So-called Long-Arm Statute.

Also defeated were three attempts to change the divorce law regarding time requirements. HB 6 would have lowered the required period of separation from 3 years to 18 months to establish cause for divorce; HB 1087 would have reduced from 1 year to 6 months the period for a voluntary separation; and HB 1553 which would have lowered the period of separation required for divorce on the grounds of separation from 3 years to 2 years.

A variety of attempts to permit the use of one's maiden name on a driver's license also failed: HB 992, Bienen, Menes; HB 1997, Wagner; SB 414, Dorman; and SB 811, Abrams. Senator Abrams' bill would have covered auto registration and title certificate as well.

APPENDIX B
DIRECTORY OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DIRECTORY OF WOMEN MEMBERS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND

Bud. & Tax.

Senator Rosalie Abrams (Baltimore City, District 42)
6205 Wirt Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21215
309 James Office Building

Env. Mat.

Delegate Patricia Aiken (Anne Arundel County, District 33)
501 Epping Forest Rd., Annapolis, Md. 21401
215 House Office Building

Delegate Kay Bienen (Prince George's County, District 21)
12411 Radnor Lane, Laurel, Md. 20811
210 House Office Building

Delegate Sheila Hixson (Montgomery County, District 20)
1008 Broadmore Circle, Silver Spring, Md. 20904
220 House Office Building

Delegate Catherine Riley (Harford County, District 6)
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326 House Office Building

Delegate Judith Toth (Montgomery County, District 15-B)
6611 80th Place, Cabin John, Md. 20034
225 House Office Building

Con. Ad. Law

Delegate Bert Booth (Baltimore County, District 11)
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309 House Office Building

Delegate Helen Koss (Montgomery County, District 19)
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Delegate Lena Lee (Baltimore City, District 38)
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222 House Office Building

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Delegate Lorraine Sheehan (Prince George's County, District 26)
3600 Diana Road, Suitland, Md. 20023
205 House Office Building

Jud. Proced.

Senator Margaret Schweinhaut (Montgomery County, District 18)
3601 Saul Road, Kensington, Md. 20795
304 James Office Building

Fin.

Senator Verda Welcome (Baltimore City, District 40)
2101 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21217
101 James Office Building

APPENDIX C
PRESS RELEASE AND EVALATION QUESTIONNAIRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Women's Caucus of the General Assembly
210 House of Delegates Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21404
269-2467

An internship program has been launched this legislative session by the Women's Caucus of the Maryland General Assembly. Four students from nearby colleges are each spending two days a week in Annapolis on behalf of the women legislators. The students' work is directed by a legislative aide hired by the Women's Caucus to supervise the interns.

According to Caucus President Pauline H. Menes, "the program was designed by the women lawmakers to provide staff assistance to the Caucus on proposed legislation which particularly affects women." The program further offers students the opportunity to observe the workings of the legislature first-hand and to study current women's issues.

The internship program, the first of its kind created by a state legislative women's caucus, is funded under the supervision of the Center for the American Woman and Politics at The Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University. The Center is watching the Maryland program carefully to evaluate its potential as a model for other legislatures interested in utilizing interns as well as developing a way to assemble information on legislation of special interest to women.

The membership of the Women's Caucus, which includes Democrats and Republicans as well as members of both houses, has agreed to work together this session on a five-point legislative agenda. Women's property rights, relief for battered spouses, pension equity, a strengthened Human Relations Commission and reform of rape laws are the key legislative priorities of the Caucus for 1977.

The women legislators meet during the session each Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Lounge on the Second Floor of the House of Delegates Building.

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Women Legislators of Maryland
The General Assembly

6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Prince George's County, District 26
Delegate Elizabeth Smith
Anne Arundel County, District 33
Delegate Judith Toth
Montgomery County, District 15-B

9 February 1977

Dear Colleague:

The Women's Caucus of the Maryland General Assembly wants to share with you the announcement of our internship program as well as our 1977 legislative priorities.

We also want you to know that you are welcome to attend our Caucus meetings. Sponsors of bills may arrange to speak to the Caucus but positions will be taken only on proposed legislation that falls within one of our priority areas.

We look forward to working together with you for an outstanding record of legislative accomplishment this season.

Sincerely yours,

Pauline H. Menes
President
Women's Caucus
Maryland General Assembly

EVALUATION OF INTERN PROGRAM—1977

In order to evaluate the intern program in the report required by the Ms. Foundation and the Center for the American Woman and Politics, the following questions were asked in a questionnaire distributed to the 21 women legislators.

1. Do you find the presence of student interns helpful or a nuisance?
   What was the nature of your contact with the students?
   Did you utilize their services? How?

2. Do you think that the presence of students to staff the Caucus made a difference in the functioning of the Caucus in this session?
   In what ways?
   Do you know of any specific instance in which passage of legislation was assisted by the interns?

3. Do you consider the presence of a supervisor to direct the work of the interns necessary?

4. Would you favor a continuation of the intern program for 1978?

5. How would you improve the utilization of interns, should the program be funded for another year?

This report and the project it describes were supported by a grant from the Ms. Foundation for Women, Inc., 370 Lexington Ave., New York, New York.

Additional copies of the report are available for $2.50 each.
Prepaid orders only.
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